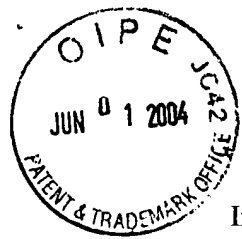


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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Jack REGULA

Serial No.: 09/421,771

Filed: October 19, 1999

For: Method and Apparatus for Fault Tolerant, Software Transparent and High Data Integrity Extension to a Backplane or Bus Interconnect

Art Unit: 2664

Examiner: Ajit G. PATEL

Tel: (703) 308-5347

Office Action Mailed:

April 19, 2004

**RECEIVED**

JUN 03 2004

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on 5/28/2004 Date By: [Signature]

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

N8 Sir:

This paper is responsive to the outstanding final Office action mailed on April 19, 2004 (the "Final Office Action"). The Final Office Action set a three-month period for response. Because this Response is being filed timely within the three-month period, no extension of time fee is due. If the Applicant's attorney is mistaken in this regard, Applicant conditionally petitions for an

extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136(a)(3), and authorization is hereby granted to charge all required extension of time fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-0365. Authorization is also granted to charge additional claim fees, if any, and all other fees necessary to file this Response, to the same Deposit Account. A separate paper authorizing the charges is attached to this paper.

Proposed claim amendment begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 20 of this paper.